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READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!! SPECIAL EDITION READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!
THE JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER POPULATION IN TEXAS*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION GRANT

In 1995 the Council on Sex Offender Treatment received a small, yet generous, grant from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. The grant funded a juvenile sex offender training project whose goal was to enhance public safety by educating communities about juvenile sex offender management and treatment available. The format of the training was designed as a roundtable concept to facilitate an interactive discussion from the regional communities participating. These trainings included county juvenile law enforcement officials, community mental health center professionals, regional child protective services staff, regional sex offender treatment providers, district attorneys and judges, local juvenile probation department staff, and regional Texas Youth Commission parole officers.

Very little juvenile sex offender training has been available in Texas. The only state wide training available for specific sex offender issues has been the annual "Working with the Juvenile Sex Offender" conference established by the Council. Local or regional trainings and other multi-disciplinary models addressing juvenile sex offender issues have been scarce. The grant funded training focused on community public safety issues by providing a regionally based, multi-disciplinary approach to juvenile sex offender training. It was assessed that the best format for this training would be two community roundtables in selected Texas sites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ROUNDTABLE TRAININGS PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3.

Funding for this newsletter provided by the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division. Special thanks to Camille Cain for her support and involvement with the Council on Sex Offender Treatment.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleague:

Juvenile crime is at an epidemic level, including offenses involving sexual assault. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) reports a sobering statistic: every 5 1/2 hours they receive one sex-related offense referral.

Research suggests that sexual violence begins in the child-to-adolescent years and, if not addressed, can progress into adulthood. It is imperative that action be taken early to alter such behavior and so reduce further victimization and provide for enhanced public safety. Punishment alone is not the answer; rather, sanctions plus treatment are needed to reverse this trend.

The Council supports Governor Bush and the legislature in their efforts to address juvenile crime issues. We are particularly thankful to the Governor's office for providing the CSOT a grant that supported regional training around juvenile sex offender issues. The roundtable discussions hosted in Abilene and Corpus Christi have contributed to increasing the understanding of the problem in these locales, as well as allowing for professional networking to begin identifying specific issues and solutions. We feel such an approach is helpful in aiding communities to address their concerns around public safety matters. We look forward to continuing to participate in this collaborative process at the community level. After all, identifying and treating the juvenile offender will result in less human suffering, enhanced safety in our communities, and reduce costs associated with future litigation and incarceration.

Sincerely,

Collier M. Cole, Ph.D., Chairperson
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Please use this page as an insert into the 1995-1996 REGISTRY.



CORRECTIONS: The following are corrections to the **1995-1996 REGISTRY** publication. We apologize to those individuals for errors in their listing.

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**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A PROVIDER OR TO ORDER AN APPLICATION,
PLEASE CONTACT: EVELYN NICHOLS, (512)463-2323**



Community Roundtables in Specific Texas Regions

Charles Locklin, a health and human services consultant, assisted the Council in developing these roundtables to provide training on juvenile sex offender treatment with sanctions as a local model for implementation. The goal of the project was to enhance public safety by educating communities of the different management and treatment options available for addressing juvenile sexual crimes. The object was to enhance the working knowledge of judicial officers and probation or parole officers, state and municipal agencies, and other communities regarding the treatment of juvenile sex offenders. A second objective was to determine the ongoing informational needs of these local persons with respect to their regional needs for the management of juvenile sex offenders. Training was provided on a regional basis to capture and explore local community needs and identify solutions acceptable to the local community. The two cities, Abilene and Corpus Christi, were chosen because they are medium sized Texan communities. For example, in Abilene, during 1994, 33 youth were charged with sexual offenses. It is estimated that this is double the amount it was five years ago.

The workshops had some benefits that were generalized to both communities. *The biggest gain for the communities was that our process initiated a collective opportunity for communities to start a process locally to begin addressing this serious issue.* Both communities scheduled later meetings to follow-up on this valuable local initiative. Second, the roundtables provided increased community understanding of juvenile sex offender behaviors, identification, management, and treatment. Third, the multi-agency involvement allowed for improved interagency communication, cooperation, and networking. Fourth, the regional roundtables increased community awareness and helped to develop a plan for addressing these problems in a coordinated manner. Finally, the roundtable discussions improved the participants willingness to explore changes in agency policies and/or procedures to respond to the service needs of juvenile sex offenders and their families.

The Treatment and Management of Juvenile Sexual Behavior, Abilene, TX

On May 16-17, 1995, the Abilene community organized 41 participants to hear a variety of speakers on issues related to juvenile sexual offense. People Against Child Abuse (PACA) greeted the attendees. David Cory, LMSW-ACP gave the opening address on juvenile sex offender issues. The Honorable Barbara Rollins spoke about the law enforcement perspective of juvenile sex offenses. Marc Orner, Ph.D. spoke about the personality, character, and behavioral traits of the juvenile sex offender. Sherry McDonald, LMSW-ACP addressed the issues of identification, treatment, and public safety regarding the juvenile sex offender. Marla Banks, Ed.D., of PACA's board of directors discussed guidelines for community planning. After taking in all this information, the small group roundtable discussions began and continued to the next day. Sherry McDonald then assisted the attendees in outlining and implementing community action plans to address the needs of this population.

The topics addressed by the Abilene roundtable were consultation between agencies about a case, the offender interviewing process, community treatment, and assessment resources. All the attendees worked together to address the topics of juvenile record confidentiality, the offender's family involvement, community education, and community prevention issues. Several action plans were developed and assignments were made. In the Abilene community, this effort evolved into an extended plan to address many of the issues related to juvenile sexual assault and additional training workshops. The local paper printed articles about these issues.

Community Issues in the Treatment and Management of the Juvenile Sex Offender, Corpus Christi, TX

On June 19-20, 1995, the Corpus Christi community convened 53 participants at the local Education Resource Center for two days of working on issues concerning juvenile sex offenders. The Honorable Jack Hunter spoke about the juvenile court perspective. Sherry McDonald addressed concerns over public safety, identification, assessment, juvenile sex offender patterns, and the treatment and management of the juvenile sex offender. Lisa Capers, of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, provided a juvenile justice reform briefing. Paul Jordan, of the Department of Public Safety, presented the regional law enforcement methods, tracking the referral and the judicial process, and registration of the sex offender. Sherry McDonald discussed guidelines for community planning and developing a regional plan. The smaller roundtable groups were formed and began the problem solving process.

Four prominent issues arose in Corpus Christi. First and foremost, was the issue of limited funds for sex offender treatment. They also found that there are not many treatment options available. They identified the need to make juvenile sex crime prosecution simpler, and the importance of involving the parents in the process. Finally, they wanted more community education and prevention efforts so as to encourage early intervention. They developed a community action plan addressing the above issues.

Training Calendar

February 23, 1996

Treating the Juvenile Sex Offender, Wayne D. Duahn, Ph.D., Regional Network for Children & Shoal Creek Hospital Austin, Texas. For information, call (512) 892-1288.

July 17-19, 1996

4th Annual Conference on Working With the Juvenile Sex Offender, Council on Sex Offender Treatment Austin, Texas. Watch for the *Call For Papers* Flyer.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!

Many thanks to all the agencies and individuals who took a leading role in planning the two roundtable trainings in Abilene and Corpus Christi!!!!!!!

**The Texas Resource
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**THE COUNCIL WISHES YOU AND YOURS A
VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**